

Classification

Putting things into orderly groups based on similar characteristics.

Why do scientists classify?

- to know how many species there are
- to know the unique characteristics of each species
- to know the relationship between species.

How do scientists classify?

Taxonomy: the science of describing, naming and classifying organisms

Techniques

1. Branching Diagrams

Used to find out what organisms share characteristics and which organisms are more closely related

2. Seven Categories

Used to put organisms into groups based on their characteristics

3. Scientific names

Made up of the genus name (with a capital letter) and the species name (with a lower case letter)

Used by scientists to tell organisms.

Used to eliminate confusion between cultures and groups

4. Dichotomous Keys

Used to identify and name a living thing based on its characteristics.